MARVEL

X-MEN: END OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES

WE WALKED LIKE *GODS*.

SO ARROGANT. SO SPLENDID. SO CARELESS.

YES, I KNOW YOU'RE *LISTENING*, CHARLES.

AND YES. I MEAN YOU, *TOO*.

AND LOOK AT WHAT WE'VE *COME* TO.

YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD WRITE THE *FUTURE*, DIDN'T YOU? YOU THOUGHT YOU HAD THE MAGIC *FORMULA*. THE SECRET RECIPE.

BUT THE FUTURE DOESN'T *HAVE* A FORMULA. IT DOESN'T HAVE A *SCRIPT*.

IT'S ALL *AD LIB*.

ALL DESPERATE *IMPROVISATION* IN FRONT OF A DYING AUDIENCE IN A ROOM WHERE THE *CEILING* IS ABOUT TO FALL IN.

I CAN'T HELP FEELING THAT WE GOT WHAT WE *DESERVED*.

FIGHT'S RIGGED.
SURE IT IS. YOU KNOW YOU'RE GOING DOWN.
ONLY QUESTION IS, HOW MANY ROUNDS YOU LAST.
BUT WE DON'T STOP FIGHTING.
NOPE.
WHY IS THAT?
BECAUSE WE DON'T KNOW HOW.

HE SAYS IT'S MADNESS TO RACE THE STORM. THE SUMMIT IS INACCESSIBLE NOW UNTIL SPRING.
ONLY IF THE STORM OVERTAKES US.
A QUICK CLIMB WILL GET US TO THE TOP TODAY.
I'M NOT SAYING THERE'S NO RISK. THAT WOULD BE A LIE.
ANYONE WHO WANTS TO LEAVE IS WELCOME TO. BUT I'LL DOUBLE THE PAY OF ALL THOSE WHO STAY.
HASONMAS ERVENYBEN HAN MAR, MERT KIHAJT BENN ARNYEKOS!
HE SAYS THEY SHOULD GET DOUBLE ALREADY, FOR COMING THIS FAR UP THE MOUNTAIN.
EMBERI EL TUNES IDE. KEDELY BEVETEL.
CLIMBERS DISAPPEAR ON THESE SLOPES. MEN WITH LION FACES GUARD THE PASSES.
WELL, THAT'S THE RISK YOU TAKE, OBVIOUSLY. GETTING THE LION-FACED MEN ALL UPSET WITH YOU.
UDVARI BOHOK!
AND I KNOW ENOUGH TRANSIAN TO KNOW THAT THAT WASN'T NICE.
I'M CLIMBING TO THE TOP OF WUNDAGORE. NOW. TODAY.
COME IF YOU WANT TO. OR TAKE WHAT'S LEFT OF THE EQUIPMENT AND PROVISIONS AND MAKE YOUR WAY BACK DOWN TO SAFETY.
IF I MEET BIGFOOT, I'LL TELL HIM YOU SAID HI.

I keep telling myself--nothing is final. Nothing is fixed.
I made my offer, and I let it stand. That was all I ever intended to do.
Dr. Doom:
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO OFFER ME THAT I COULD POSSIBLY NEED, DOCTOR McCOY AND BIOLOGY IS NOT MY FORTE.
Arnim Zola:
IT IS MINE. BUT THE EXTINCTION OF A SENTIENT RACE--
--WELL, I'M HOPING TO COLLECT A LOT OF VALUABLE DATA.
Modok:
A.I.M. INTENDS TO EXPLOIT THE CURRENT SITUATION IN OTHER WAYS. OUR ASSISTANCE WILL NOT BE FORTHCOMING.
Pandemic:
THE X-MEN DESTROYED MY LIFE'S WORK!
I'LL RAISE A GLASS WHEN THE LAST OF YOU DIES.
Sugar Man:
YOU'D HAVE TO MAKE THE PILL A LOT SWEETER, MY GOOD DOCTOR.
I HONESTLY DON'T THINK YOU CAN AFFORD ME.
Mr. Sinister:
YOU HAVE DELUSIONS OF ADEQUACY BEAST.
YOKE MY GENIUS TO YOUR BLIND GROPINGS? I THINK NOT.

Well, I cast my net wide for a reason.
And I knew going in that keeping my pride wasn't an option.
That I'd have to be content with whatever scraps I was thrown.
But the High Evolutionary--what was **he** saying, exactly?
It was as though--he was **hinting** at something. Something he couldn't say in front of the **others**.
Dr. Kavita Rao:
I'LL *THINK* ABOUT IT. AND I'LL SEE WHAT I'VE GOT THAT MIGHT BE OF *USE* TO YOU.
GIVE ME THREE DAYS, THEN COME AND SEE ME.
Spiral:
I'VE LITTLE TO *DO*, AT THE MOMENT. AND THIS SPARKS ONE OR TWO--THOUGHTS.
PERHAPS I'LL *PLAY* WITH THEM, IN MY BODY SHOP, AND SEE WHERE THEY *LEAD*.
High Evolutionary:
I DON'T WISH TO SOUND *DISMISSIVE*, DOCTOR, BUT YOU WILL NOT REACH THE *END* OF THIS QUEST.
NOT IF YOU *BEGIN* IT FACING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION.

YES.
YES, YOU'RE *RIGHT*. LEAD THE WAY, STANIS.
I have to know what Wyndham meant. But now he's closed down all comms channels.
All I'm getting from the Golden Citadel is a deafening silence.
And I don't have the luxury of--
TANAR McCOY!
WHAT?
THE *STORM* COMES! WE HAVE TO GET INTO THE LEA OF THE *SLOPE!*
AHRR!

SHRIKKKK
KRRK
DAMN!
NEM NEM NEM NEM NEM!
KIOLD! KIOOOOOOLD!
STANIS, TELL HIM NOT TO PANIC.
I'M ONE OF THE X-MEN, AND I'VE GOT HIM. HE'S SAFE NOW. TELL HIM--
MI--MI ATYAH, AKIA MENYEKBEN VAGY!
SPARE US! PLEASE!
SPARE US!

YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN TO QUIT, DO YOU, DOCTOR McCOY?
TO BE CONTINUED IN X-FACTOR #21!

I WALKED ALL THE WAY UP THIS MOUNTAIN TO SEE THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY.
I'M NOT TURNING AROUND UNTIL WE'VE TALKED.
YES, YOU ARE, DOCTOR McCOY.
OTHERWISE, YOU--AND THOSE WHO TRAVEL WITH YOU--WILL DIE.
HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR LORD AND MASTER IF HE'S PREPARED TO TALK TO ME?
HE IS MY CREATOR, AND WE HAVE STANDING ORDERS.
HOW LONG DO YOU THINK THEY'LL STAND IF THE X-MEN DECIDE TO PAY YOU A CALL?
BRING THEM, WE'LL SEE.

YA BROVAH! IS SHEVEK NABRODZH VEH TEN!
NABRODZHES ULLE TEN!
STANIS, TELL YOUR [redacted] TO TURN AROUND AND BEGIN THE DESCENT.
I'LL BE RIGHT BEHIND YOU.
WAS WHITE [redacted] A RELATIVE OF YOURS, BY ANY CHANCE?
MY BROOD-SISTER. WHY?
SHE WOULD HAVE BITTEN OFF HER OWN TONGUE BEFORE [redacted] THREATENED UNARMED MEN.

RRRRRRRRRRRRR!
UFF!
YOU IMPUGN MY HONOR.
I'LL WRITE YOUR EPITAPH WITH YOUR OWN ENTRAILS.
WELL, LET ME HELP YOU WITH THAT...

BIG "M"
LITTLE "C"
RRRRR--
ENOUGH!
SNOW QUEEN, STOP THIS NOW.
AND TELL YOUR KNIGHTS TO STAND DOWN.
LET DOCTOR McCOY'S COMPANIONS DEPART IN PEACE.
WE'LL TALK ALONE.

WANDA MAXIMOFF RESHAPED REALITY BY A SINGLE ACT OF WILL.
CHAOS MAGIC--WHICH ISN'T EXACTLY A NATURAL PROCESS.
BUT IT'S NO TRAGEDY. NOBODY DIED, A FEW UNFORTUNATE SOULS.
NO. BUT LIVES WERE RIPPED OUT OF THEIR COURSES. OUR FUTURE WAS STOLEN FROM US.
WE'VE BECOME IRRELEVANCE. THE CAUTERIZED STUMP OF A SPECIES.
MIGHT NOT WANDA MAXIMOFF STILL BE THE AGENT THROUGH WHICH NATURE ACTS?
LIKE THE COMET THAT DESTROYED THE DINOSAURS. LIKE A GREAT PLAGUE, THE SUNDERING OF CONTINENTS.
SHE WAS A TORTURED WOMAN WHO CARRIED THE [illegible] OF A TERRIBLE POWER.
WHAT SPOKE THROUGH HER WASN'T NATURE, OR FATE, OR GOD, OR ANYTHING ELSE. IT WAS JUST HER OWN [illegible]
MY GOD! YOU'RE NOT EVEN HERE, ARE YOU?
THAT'S HOW LITTLE THIS MEANS TO YOU!
I AM [illegible] AND OCCUPIED WITH MANY THINGS.
BUT I'VE [illegible] YOUR RESEARCH, DOCTOR.
AND I CANNOT SEE IT LEADING TO SUCCESS.

WYNDHAM, IF I HAD THE ANSWERS ALREADY, I WOULDN'T HAVE COME HERE.
BUT I NEED MORE THAN THAT. WHAT AM I DOING WRONG?
AT THE FLAMES, TREATING THE SYMPTOMS.
DAMN YOU, I'M NOT INTERESTED IN POETIC METAPHORS. TELL ME STRAIGHT.
WHAT DO I DO? WHAT SHOULD I BE LOOKING AT? WHERE WOULD YOU START?
MY FIRST THOUGHT WOULD BE TO GO TO THE SOURCE. BUT THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE HERE.
MAGIC [illegible] THE CRISIS, SCIENCE MAY NOT AVAIL TO [illegible] IT.
AND THAT'S ALL YOU'VE GOT TO OFFER [illegible]?
IT'S BETTER TO STAY WHERE YOU [illegible] THAN TO EMBARK ON GRAND VOYAGES TO ALL THE WRONG DESTINATIONS, DOCTOR.
THAT'S WHAT I TOLD YOUR COLLEAGUE, [illegible] HE CAME HERE. BUT LIKE YOU, HE FOUND THE TRUTH UNACCEPTABLE.
WHAT COLLEAGUE? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
SNOW QUEEN, PLEASE SEE DOCTOR McCOY TO THE OUTER [illegible].
MY BUSINESS WITH HIM IS CONCLUDED.

All I have to do is find it.
PLEASE TELL ME YOU HAVE SOME GOOD NEWS FOR ONCE, DOCTOR RAO.
I'M BEGINNING TO THINK THAT YOU *PREFER* BEING UPSIDE DOWN, DOCTOR McCOY. DOES IT GIVE YOU PERSPECTIVE?
NO. BUT I'M TOLD IT'S VERY UNNERVING.
INDEED.
WHAT IS THIS PLACE, KAVITA? THIS IS A FAR CRY FROM BENETECH.
I AM OBSOLETE NOW, HANK. SURELY YOU REALIZE THAT. MY FIELD OF RESEARCH IS SOON TO BE AN EXERCISE IN ARCHAEOLOGY.
WHO NEEDS A MUTANT GENETICIST WHEN THERE ARE NO MORE MUTANTS?

THE BREAKWORLD RESEARCH HAS GOTTEN ME NOWHERE. TAKE IT. TAKE EVERYTHING.
I HAVE NO HOPE FOR YOU, HANK.
ARE THESE...
X-GENE SAMPLES TAKEN FROM EVERY MUTANT THAT CAME FOR THE CURE AS WELL. AS EVERY MUTANT USED IN DEVELOPING IT, GIVEN TO ME BY ORD.
ALL OF THEM NOW DUST.
AFTER M-DAY, THE ISOLATED MUTANT GENE SIMPLY CEASED TO EXIST.
NO...
20004
24401
DAMN YOU, WANDA.

SEVEN HOURS AGO.
EMPTY.
COULD YOU BE A TAD MORE SPECIFIC?
REALLY, REALLY EMPTY.
Neverland is something the others can understand. The extinction of a species? Too big.
Neverland is something they can blast, or stab…
I DIDN'T STICK AROUND AND DO INVENTORY.
THERE WAS NO ONE THERE. JUST THE SMELL OF DEATH.
HOW ENLIGHTENING, LOGAN. IT WAS A MUTANT DEATH CAMP. DID YOU SMELL *MUTANTS*, TOO?
…or harden themselves to.
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING, HANK?
THERE COULD BE RECORDS…GENOME TRANSCRIPTS. BEST CASE SCENARIO? TISSUE SAMPLES.
But they don't see it like I do. Our looming extinction… that's not something they can fight.
But I can.
Neverland is a means to that end.
I'LL CALL IF I RUN INTO TROUBLE.

Disposal of experimental test subjects.
DAY 607.
Removal of rotting cadavers.
DAY 641.
Science division request for additional subjects.
DAY 701.
Termination of resistance in the yard.